From: Reyes, Deldi

To: Jessop, Carter; Watt, Jamey; Gerdes, Jason; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Goforth, Kathleen

Cc: Sachs, Carol; LOWE, DEBBIE; Rao, Kate; Grow, Richard

Subject: Fw: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine (drinking water/ground water concerns????)

Date: Thursday, July 09, 2015 3:38:56 PM

Attachments: Canyon U mine 1992.pdf

Here is more information from Kate.

From: Rao, Kate

Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2015 3:25 PM

To: Reyes, Deldi; Grow, Richard; BANDROWSKI, MIKE; Rosenblum, Shelly; Nazmi, Niloufar **Subject:** FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine (drinking water/ground water concerns????)

Sorry to jump into this late. I asked Niloufar to loop me in b/c we rec'd a media inquiry on this last month. Below is the information I found on this issue. It may be useful for our internal discussions.

Kate

Kate Rao

Drinking Water Protection Section (WTR 3-2) USEPA Region 9

75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105 tel: (415) 972-3533 / fax: (415) 947-3549

From: Rao, Kate

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:21 PM

To: Albright, David; Li, Corine

Cc: evans-walker, daria; Montgomery, Michael; Banks, Karl

Subject: FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine (drinking water/ground water concerns????)

David/Corine -

(b) (5)	

Canyon Uranium Mine (owner: Energy Fuels Inc.)

- 6 miles southeast of the town of Tusayan.
- 35 miles southeast and upstream from the Havasupai Reservation.
- EPA commented on draft EIS in 1985 and rated it Environmental Concerns Insufficient Information. We asked for more info on NPDES permit requirements and ground water impacts. Final EIS issued in 1986 and adequately addressed EPA concerns.
- EPA's opinion was no NPDES permit needed b/c no discharge to WOUS.
- Milling site is White Mesa Uranium Mill in Blanding, Utah.
- Attached is EPA internal document from 1992 that provides background information.

Articles and Information

Grand Canyon Trust: map of uranium mines (http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/sites/default/files/UraniumClaims GrandCanyonRegion.pdf)

Center for Biological Diversity, Press Release (April 2015): <u>Federal Judge Oks Uranium Mining Next to</u>
<u>Grand Canyon National Park, Decision Allows Mining Without Tribal Consultation or Update</u>
<u>Decades-old Environmental Review</u>

[NOTE: This letter states that gw threatened by the mine feeds municipal wells and seeps into Havasu Springs and Havasu Creek. An APP issued by ADEQ did not require monitoring of deep aquifers.

USDA Forest Service: Canyon Uranium Mine

[NOTE: this is a really good site and has current status and lots of background documentation.]

Drinking Water Protection Section (WTR 3-2)
USEPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: (415) 972-3533 / fax: (415) 947-3549

From: Marincola, JamesPaul

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 4:00 PM

To: Rao, Kate

Subject: FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

FYI

Jamie Marincola Water Division US EPA, Region IX San Francisco, CA From: Geselbracht, Jeanne

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 3:58 PM **To:** Rosenblum, Shelly; Zito, Kelly

Cc: Goforth, Kathleen; Marincola, JamesPaul **Subject:** FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

Kelly, the Environmental Review Section has not been involved in this project recently. I found a 1992 RA briefing paper (attached) from our NEPA review office on the Canyon Mine. The briefing paper discusses EPA's involvement with the mine as of 1992. It appears EPA had been a cooperating agency on the original EIS in 1985-86 because of our NPDES permitting role at that time. EPA also had a NESHAPS permitting role.

Shelly, was there some recent NESHAPS permitting activity for this one?

Just yesterday, I saw this in High Country News about this project: http://www.hcn.org/articles/a-uranium-mine-is-anything-but-a-good-neighbor?utm source=wcn1&utm medium=email

Jeanne Geselbracht Environmental Review Section (ENF-4-2) U.S. EPA Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: (415) 972-3853

From: Goforth, Kathleen

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 2:51 PM

To: Geselbracht, Jeanne

Subject: FW: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

Do you have any information about this? Please reply to Kelly with cc to me.

Thanks – -Kathy

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager Environmental Review Section (ENF-4-2) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 415-972-3521

From: Zito, Kelly

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 1:33 PM

To: Rao, Kate; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Goforth, Kathleen

Subject: AZ Reporter call - uranium mine

Hi folks – An Arizona reporter called asking about the restarting of operations at Canyon Uranium Mine near the Grand Canyon.

She's asking whether EPA has any regulatory oversight of it. I already checked with Land Div, and they suggested you all may have more info or advice on where reporter can get additional background.

Here's a recent update on the mine I found online. Looks like USFS is involved.

Thanks-

Kelly

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/kaibab/home/?cid=fsm91 050263

Kelly Zito

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